

WE CLAIM:

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

1. A signaling arrangement for use in a wireless local area network, comprising:
 - a) a scanner for electro-optically scanning indicia to be read, and for generating an indicia signal indicative of the indicia, the scanner having a wireless, radio frequency transmitter;
 - b) a system manager having a radio frequency receiver in wireless communication with the transmitter of the scanner for receiving the indicia signal transmitted by the transmitter, for processing the indicia signal, and for generating an acknowledgment signal indicative that the indicia signal has been processed, the system manager having a wireless, radio frequency transmitter; and
 - c) an indicator having a radio frequency receiver in wireless communication with the transmitter of the system manager for receiving the acknowledgment signal, and for generating an alert signal noticeable to a user upon receipt of the acknowledgment signal.
2. The signaling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the scanner includes a light source for directing a light beam at the indicia for reflection therefrom, a light detector having a field of view and operative for detecting light reflected from the indicia, and a scanning means for scanning at least one of the light beam and the field of view.
3. The signaling arrangement of claim 1, wherein each transmitter operates under a low power communications protocol.
4. The signaling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the system manager is operatively connected to a database in which a look-up table is accessed during processing of the indicia signal.

5. The signaling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the indicator includes a light that is illuminated upon receipt of the acknowledgment signal.

6. The signaling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the indicator includes a speaker that generates audible sound upon receipt of the acknowledgment signal.

7. The signaling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the indicator is remotely located from the scanner.

8. The signaling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the scanner includes a housing hand-held by a user, and wherein the indicator is supported by the user.

9. The signaling arrangement of claim 8, wherein the indicator is supported by clothing worn by the user.

10. The signaling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the system manager generates the acknowledgment signal by processing the indicia signal to verify that the indicia has been successfully read, and wherein the alert signal advises the user that the indicia was successfully read and prompts that another action be performed.

11. The signaling arrangement of claim 10, wherein the other action includes having the user aim the scanner at another indicia to be read.

12. The signaling arrangement of claim 10, wherein the other action includes moving an object bearing the indicia to a destination.

13. A signaling method for use in a wireless local area network, comprising the steps of:

a) electro-optically scanning indicia to be read, and generating an indicia signal indicative of the indicia;

b) transmitting and receiving the indicia signal by wireless, radio frequency communication to and at a system manager for processing the indicia signal;

c) generating an acknowledgment signal indicative that the indicia signal has been processed; and

d) transmitting and receiving the acknowledgment signal by wireless, radio frequency communication to and at an indicator for generating an alert signal noticeable to a user.

14. The signaling method of claim 13, wherein the scanning step is performed by directing a light beam at the indicia for reflection therefrom, detecting light reflected from the indicia over a field of view, and scanning at least one of the light beam and the field of view.

15. The signaling method of claim 13, wherein the generating of the alert signal is performed by illuminating a light.

16. The signaling method of claim 13, wherein the generating of the alert signal is performed by generating an audible sound.

17. The signaling method of claim 13, wherein the acknowledgment signal is generated upon verification that the indicia has been successfully read, and wherein the generating of the alert signal prompts the performance of another action.

18. The signaling method of claim 17, wherein the other action includes the step of having the user initiate the scanning of another indicia to be read.

19. The signaling method of claim 17, wherein the other action includes the step of moving an object bearing the indicia to a destination.

20. The signaling method of claim 17, wherein the other action includes the step of sorting an object bearing the indicia to one of a plurality of destinations.